

What is Claimed:

1 1. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said
2 head harness comprising:

3 a frame assembly; and

4 padding coupled to said frame assembly, said padding being
5 configured to contact at least one of a forehead and a cheek of the face of a
6 user of the head harness.

1 2. The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding is
2 coupled to said frame assembly using at least one snap fastener.

1 3. The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding
2 includes sheepskin leather provided around an interior including foam.

1 4. The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding
2 includes a plurality of pads coupled together.

1 5. The head harness of claim 4 wherein said pads are
2 coupled together by a webbing material.

1 6. The head harness of claim 1 wherein said padding
2 includes forehead padding and cheek padding separated by an opening
3 positioned for receiving a portion of eyewear worn by a user of the head
4 harness.

1 7. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said
2 head harness comprising:

3 a frame assembly including a plurality of frame members; and

4 at least one hinge providing hinged interconnection between said
5 plurality of frame members such that the head harness may be compacted
6 through operation of the hinged interconnection.

1 8. The head harness of claim 7 wherein said frame assembly
2 includes three of said frame members and two of said hinge such that each of
3 said frame members is coupled to another of said frame members through
4 one of said hinges.

1 9. The head harness of claim 8 wherein a centrally
2 positioned one of said frame members includes a mounting assembly for
3 mounting a night vision system to said frame assembly.

1 10. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said
2 head harness comprising:

3 a frame assembly; and

4 a pad assembly coupled to said frame assembly configured to
5 contact a lower rear portion of a user's head when the user wears the head
6 harness, said pad assembly including a netting material.

1 11. The head harness of claim 10 wherein said pad assembly
2 is coupled to said frame assembly via at least one strap.

1 12. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said
2 head harness comprising:

3 a frame assembly; and

4 a plurality of straps configured to be coupled to said frame
5 assembly using snap fasteners, said straps being adjustable by a user of the
6 head harness.

1 13. The head harness of claim 12 wherein said plurality of
2 straps includes a vertical strap for extending over a user's head, an upper
3 side strap configured to be coupled to two end portions of said frame
4 assembly, and a lower side strap configured to be coupled to said two end
5 portions of said frame assembly.

1 14. The head harness of claim 13 wherein a first mating
2 portion of a snap fastener of at least one of said upper and said lower side
3 strap are configured to be coupled to one of a plurality of second mating
4 portions of the snap fastener on said frame assembly such that a position of
5 said at least one of said upper and said lower side strap is adjustable.

1 15. The head harness of claim 13 wherein said lower strap is
2 configured to be coupled to either of said frame assembly or a chincup
3 assembly.

1 16. The head harness of claim 15 wherein said chincup
2 assembly includes a sheepskin leather covering for contacting the skin of a
3 user.

1 17. The head harness of claim 15 wherein said chincup
2 assembly is symmetric about at least one of a vertical and a horizontal axis.

1 18. The head harness of claim 12 wherein each of said straps
2 includes a self locking buckle mechanism for locking a position each of said
3 straps upon adjustment by the user.

1 19. The head harness of claim 12 wherein at least one of said
2 straps includes a quick release mechanism such that the head harness is
3 configured to be loosened for removal upon the user operating the quick
4 release mechanism.

1 20. The head harness of claim 19 wherein said quick release
2 mechanism is included on a left side of said lower side strap.

1 21. The head harness of claim 12 wherein at least one of said
2 straps includes a first mating portion of a snap fastener, said frame assembly
3 including a plurality of second mating portions of the snap fastener, said first
4 mating portion being configured to be mated with any of said second mating
5 portions such that a position of said at least one of said straps may be
6 adjusted by changing the second mating portion to which the respective first
7 mating portion is mated.

1 22. The head harness of claim 12 wherein at least one of said
2 straps includes a first mating portion of a snap fastener, and said frame
3 assembly includes a plurality of second mating portions of the snap fastener,
4 said first mating portion of said at least one of said straps being configured to
5 be mated with any of said second mating portions such that a position of said
6 at least one of said straps may be adjusted by changing the second mating
7 portion to which said first mating portion is mated, wherein said head
8 harness optionally includes a chincup by mating said first mating portion with
9 a second mating portion of a snap fastener included on said chincup as
10 opposed to a second mating portion of said frame assembly.

1 23. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said
2 head harness comprising:

3 a frame assembly; and

4 a protective pad coupled to said frame assembly and positioned
5 to protect a user's head from contact with the night vision device or a night
6 vision device mount coupled to the frame assembly upon the night vision
7 device being pivoted from a first position in front of the user's line of sight to
8 a second position above a user's head.

1 24. The head harness of claim 23 wherein said protective pad
2 includes a solid composite material.

1 25. A head harness for supporting a night vision device, said
2 head harness comprising:

3 a frame assembly; and

4 a mounting assembly coupled to said frame assembly for
5 mounting a night vision device to said frame assembly,

6 said frame assembly being curved inward from a center portion
7 towards two ends portions such that when a user wears the head harness,
8 the inwardly curved end portions extend toward a face of the user.

1 26. The head harness of claim 25 additionally comprising
2 padding coupled to at least one of said center portion and said end portions
3 such that said padding contacts the face of the user when the user wears the
4 head harness.

1 27. The head harness of claim 25 wherein said padding is
2 configured to contact at least one of a forehead and a cheek of the face of
3 the user when the user wears the head harness.

1 28. The head harness of claim 25 wherein said frame
2 assembly is curved downward from said center portion towards said end
3 portions.

1 29. The head harness of claim 25 wherein said frame assembly
2 including a plurality of frame members, and said head harness additionally
3 comprises at least one hinge providing hinged interconnection between said
4 plurality of frame members such that the head harness may be compacted
5 through operation of the hinged interconnection